

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, January 21, 2021

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman Clow, Vice Chairman Kerby, Representatives Boyle, Mendive, DeMordaunt, Moon, Marshall, Wisniewski, Galloway, Shepherd, Yamamoto, Berch, Toone, McCrostie, Ehardt

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Suzanne Budge, STRIDE; Tracie Bent, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, State Board of Education (SBOE); Mike Keckler, Chief Communications and Legislative Affairs Officer SBOE; Marilyn Whitney Deputy Superintendent, Communications & Policy, State Department of Education (SDE); Karlynn Laraway, Communications Director SDE; Julie Oberle, Chief Financial Officer SDE

Chairman Clow called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Chairman Clow turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Kerby**.

RS 28281: **Chairman Clow** introduced the proposed legislation. **Suzanne Budge** discussed the urgent need for the **RS 28281**. She stated the demand for virtual charter schools in 2020 grew much more than expected due to the pandemic. The schools were recently advised by the State Department of Education that the funds for 5,600 students could not be paid unless the current code can be amended, removing the 30 unit cap language in Idaho Code 33-5208 which specifically caps the unit growth of public charter schools. Ms. Budge clarified the funds are following students from public schools to the virtual school, and have already been allocated towards the virtual schools but cannot be released, per the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC) and the State Department of Education (SDE). Chairman Clow clarified the funds were already allocated to the virtual schools but cannot be released until the change has been made. Ms. Budge answered Committee questions.

MOTION: **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to introduce **RS 28281**. **Rep. Yamamoto** and **Rep. Boyle** declared Rule 80, noting conflicts due to personal charter school board participation. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Vice Chairman Kerby turned the gavel over to **Chairman Clow**.

Julie Oberle, Idaho **Superintendent Ybarra's** Director of Finance, conducted a comprehensive presentation regarding how school finance works within the State, how educational funds are distributed, and budget requests are calculated under the current funding models. Ms. Oberle answered Committee questions and provided an overview of this year's proposed changes.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

Representative Clow
Chair

Christine Reynolds
Secretary